

**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for inserting an electrode into a myocardium of the heart, the apparatus comprising:

an anchor configured to advance through myocardial tissue in a first orientation and to anchor against an epicardial surface in a second orientation~~for abutting a surface of the heart; [[and]]~~

a tension element having a proximal end and a distal end attached to the anchor, ~~the tension element configured to guide slideable advancement of an electrode over the tension element during implantation of the electrode such that the tension element extends completely through a pole of the electrode; and~~

an electrode having an inner guide channel to accommodate the tension element and having a pole at an end adapted for stimulating the myocardium, wherein the electrode and the tension element are configured such that the electrode can be threaded over the proximal end of the tension element and slideably advanced over the tension element towards the anchor during implantation;

wherein the anchor and the tension element are configured to couple to the electrode, thereby chronically retaining the distal end of the electrode in the heart after implantation.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

a tool for inserting the anchor through the myocardium to an operating position; and

a receiver tube for pre-forming a canal through the myocardium, the tube defining a lumen adapted to hold the anchor and the tool during insertion into the heart.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the anchor includes an attachment area having a receiving aperture disposed at a trailing end of the anchor for fittingly receiving the tool.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the anchor further comprises at least one element having a position for deployment into the myocardium and an expanded position at the operating position.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein a spring force biases the at least one element to the expanded operating position.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the anchor is rod-shaped having a first end and a second end and includes an attachment area comprising a longitudinal opening at the first end for receiving the tool and wherein the tension element is attached to the anchor between the first end and the second end.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the tension element is attached to the anchor at a location between the center of the anchor and a leading end.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the anchor is disk-shaped and the attachment area is a radially-oriented aperture in the anchor adapted for receiving the tool.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the anchor has a first angled leg and a second angled leg, the first leg having an aperture forming the attachment area for receiving the tool.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the anchor further comprises:  
a central leg;  
at least two outer legs; and  
a membrane stretched between the central leg and the outer legs.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the anchor includes a plurality of legs defining a star-shape and the attachment area is an aperture in one of the legs adapted for receiving the tool.

30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the anchor has a plurality of leaves defining a cloverleaf-shape and the attachment area is an aperture adapted for receiving the tool and is disposed between two of the individual leaves.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the tool is a thin, flexible stylet.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18[[32]] wherein the electrode defines at least one exit opening from the guide channel at a connection point near the exit opening such that the tension element is attachable to the electrode.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the exit opening for the tension element is closed by a medical adhesive.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the connection point includes a fastening element for attaching the tension element to the electrode.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the tension element includes a stop located at a distance from the anchor for fixing the electrode to prevent movement in either of a forward or a rearward direction.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the stop comprises a thickening on the tension element having a diameter which exceeds an inner diameter of the guide channel.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18[[32]] wherein the pole includes an anode spaced apart from a cathode.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising a first and a second electrode branching from a common supply lead, each electrode ~~having~~defining an inner guide channel sized to accommodate a first and a second tension element, respectively, and each electrode having a pole at an end adapted for stimulating the myocardium.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising an exit opening from the guide channel near the branch of the supply lead.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the tension elements extend through the guide channels and are knotted together outside the exit opening.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising an anode positioned on the common supply lead and a cathode positioned on each of the first and second electrodes.

43. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for inserting an electrode into a myocardium of the heart, the apparatus comprising:

an anchor configured to anchor against an epicardial surface~~adapted for abutting an exterior surface of the heart~~, said anchor having an attachment area;

a tension element having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end attached to the anchor; and

a first heart pacemaker electrode having defining an inner guide channel,  
wherein the tension element and first heart pacemaker electrode are  
configured such that the heart pacemaker electrode can be threaded over the proximal end of the tension element and slideably advanced over the tension element toward the anchor during implantation and having a pole near a forward end adapted for stimulating the myocardium.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43 further comprising a tool detachably coupled to the attachment area for inserting the anchor through the myocardium to an operating position.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44 further comprising a receiver tube for creating a canal through the myocardium, the receiver tube defining a lumen sized for holding the anchor and the tool during insertion into the heart.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the first electrode has at least one exit opening from the guide channel for the tension element such that the tension element is attachable to the first electrode at a connection point at or outside the exit opening.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46 further comprising a stop provided on the tension element at a distance from the anchor for fixing the first electrode to prevent movement in a forward direction.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the pole includes an anode spaced apart from a cathode.

49. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 43 further comprising a second electrode ~~having~~defining an inner guide channel to accommodate the tension element and having a pole at an end for stimulating the myocardium, the second electrode branching from a common supply lead with the first electrode.

50. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for inserting an electrode into a myocardium of a heart, the apparatus comprising:

a tension element having a proximal end and a distal end;

an electrode ~~defining~~having an inner guide channel, wherein the tension element and electrode are configured such that the electrode can be threaded over the proximal end of the tension element and slideably advanced over the tension element towards the heart during implantation and having a pole at an end for stimulating the myocardium; and

means for anchoring a distal end of the tension element within the myocardium, the means for anchoring attached to the distal end of the tension element and configured to anchor against an epicardial surface.

51. (Withdrawn) A method for inserting an electrode within a myocardium of a heart, the method comprising:

inserting an anchor coupled to a tension element through the myocardium to an operating position adjacent an exterior surface of the myocardium;

providing an electrode defining an inner guide channel for accommodating the tension element and having a pole at an end for stimulating the myocardium;  
advancing the electrode into the myocardium over the tension element; and  
affixing the tension element to the electrode at a connection point to prevent movement of the electrode in a direction away from the anchor.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 comprising pre-forming a canal through the myocardium to the operating position adjacent an exterior surface of the myocardium.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein inserting the anchor through the myocardium further comprises detachably coupling a tool to a deformation on the anchor.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 further comprising manipulating the anchor to an orientation generally parallel to the exterior surface in the operating position.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein affixing the tension element to the first electrode further comprises positioning a front end of the electrode against a stop on the tension element.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein affixing the tension element to the first electrode further includes knotting the tension element to a loop structure on the electrode.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein affixing the tension element to the electrode further comprises adhering the tension element to the electrode with a medical adhesive.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein affixing the tension element to the electrode further comprises tautly securing the tension element between the anchor and the connection point.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein affixing the tension element to the electrode further comprises stopping the electrode at a stop on the tension element, the stop located a distance from the anchor.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59 wherein affixing the tension element to the first electrode further comprises tautly securing the tension element between the stop and the connection point.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 further comprising positioning a cathode of the electrode within the myocardium and an anode of the electrode at a distance from the cathode.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61 further comprising positioning the anode outside of the myocardium.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 further comprising repeating the method to insert a second electrode within the myocardium, the second electrode branching out from a common supply lead .

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 63 further comprising fixing the tension elements extending through the first and second electrodes to each other.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 wherein inserting the anchor to the operating position further comprises situating the anchor on an exterior surface of the myocardium.